How to study the Bible and retain it.

# THE SCRIBE METHOD

by Carol Evaul

*Handwriting the Bible*

# The Scribe Method: Hand-writing the Bible

## A SIMPLE METHOD FOR LEARNING THE BIBLE

CAROL EVAUL

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# DEDICATION

To my grandmother, Bessie.

# CONTENTS


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Acknowledgments | i |
| 1 | Introduction | 9 |
| 2 | Why is it beneficial? | 35 |
| 3 | How can it be used? | 43 |
| 4 | The Big Picture, not just Bytes | 49 |
| 5 | Hiding the Word in your heart | 55 |
| 6 | Pray the scriptures | 61 |
| 7 | Conclusions | 67 |
| | Additional Information | 73 |
| | About the Author | 75 |

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# 1 INTRODUCTION - WHAT IS THE SCRIBE METHOD?

Psalms 119 is the longest psalms in the Bible that contains 176 verses. The subject matter of this Psalms is about the Word of God, the law, statutes, and what we refer to as the "Bible." Rather than paste the entire chapter, I have chosen to focus on Psalm 119:130 (NKJV), "[130] The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple." I would suggest writing the entire Psalms to have a grasp on the importance of meditating on God's Word. The theme is repeated throughout the entire chapter in an undeniable way, describing the importance, power

and purpose of knowing God's Word.

I chose to write this book using large print for my own benefit as well as for the ease of readers. In order to begin to understand the importance of words and reading, I used a larger type to make a point about words, letters and the art of writing. Words express ideas and are important cognitive parts that form our thinking and impact our behavior. The Bible says we <u>are</u> what we think. The Bible promises to transform our lives through the words that are written. The words of scripture will protect us from sinning against God. This is a powerful statement. Words form thoughts and thinking impacts behavior.

Without repeatedly pushing the issue of the importance of the study of Bible, we are faced with an intellectual crisis because Christians today are lagging behind in their knowledge of the Bible because a lack of *love for the Bible*. While we don't worship the Bible, we should form an

attachment to the Bible because it is a source of wisdom, instruction and help. There are promises to those who seek to know the Word of God. We read the Bible as we seek to know more about God, the main theme of the book.

It is contradictory to think that you can live an exemplary life as a Christian without any notion of the Bible. The wisdom that the Bible offers is supernatural. We may spend years becoming educated in a secular system, but cannot give ten minutes to daily Bible study. The terrible neglect of Bible study can be demonstrated in the life of the "Christian." No wonder modern Christians are so mediocre!

I have a personal motivation for writing this book, that is to share a simple technique to make the Bible more personal. The privilege of reading and writing is a great gift that should not be minimized by literate people, we should not "act" as illiterate people because laziness and

distractions. We will all be held accountable for our ability of being able to read, having freedom of worship and as a matter of conscious, choosing not to use all of the benefits before us.

My grandmother, Bessie, could not read and write. I will not go into detail about the reason why she was denied that privilege, but I will emphasize the reverence that she had for the Bible. She asked me to read to her often when we were together. I spent many summer days at her house. We would always pray before opening the Bible, as Bessie said, this is a "Spirit Book" and prayer is necessary to be able to get "the understanding." The Bible is not like any other book written because it has been anointed by God's Holy Spirit. There is a blessing waiting for those who read the Bible. Bible Reference: Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

"[3] Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are

written in it; for the time is near." Do you believe that?

While it may not seem necessary to argue with Christians about the *importance* of studying the Word of God, it seems that many Christians have drifted away from the foundational basis of *the faith*, which is the Bible. There are many scripture references to the Bible, it is referred to as the Law, the Truth, powerful as a double-edged sword, it is eternal and in essence, Jesus who was the Word became flesh. The Bible emphasizes the importance of Jesus as the "Word became flesh." John 1:14 (NKJV) "[14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." These are powerful statements, and if you believe them, it should move you into action or at least, curiosity to know more.

Just like the alphabet makes up letters by which we are able to form sentences, Jesus Christ is the "alpha and

omega" of all things it is as if to say He is the A-Z of everything. Jesus is the "alphabet." The Bible also says that God spoke and the world was formed. The Bible gives great importance to the power of God's words especially in God's book, the Bible. Words make up ideas, ideas provide understanding. God's Words deliver comfort, assurance and increase our faith and knowledge of Him.

The importance of Bible study has faded in contemporary churches because people are too busy and distracted to learn the Word. The lack of Bible knowledge among Christians today is shocking and unbelievable. While many Christians can recite commercials, recall scores from recent baseball and football games, and give you elaborate descriptions and dialogues from their favorite movies and TV shows, but generally they are not able to accurately recount very common Bible stories accurately.

The Bible ignorance among Christians is astounding

and (should be) embarrassing. The Bible "illiteracy" is evidenced by the lack of vision in the modern church. We have nice churches, fancy equipment, big programs, but little emphasis is put on Bible knowledge. While everyone seems to be looking to "get fed" at church. They need to learn to feed themselves and mature. Bible Reference: Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)"[6] My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." There are severe consequences to spiritual ignorance even if you do identify yourself as a "Christian." These are harsh words, think about it, no soft-watered down message, this is a tragic warning to take responsibility.

In the United States, we do not lack in the number of Christian books, book stores, libraries, Christian radio

stations, teaching materials and Bibles. Most Christians probably own five different Bibles that are different versions, sizes, colors and styles. The basic problem is that they simply do not read it. It is symbol of Christianity, but not practical in the life of the believer. Many Americans today do not read with regularity, this is because the way that we obtain information now is through television, the Internet, media and recently through cell phones or smart phones. To sit and read is a practice that is culturally not deemed necessary and has little attraction or entertainment value. However, that is the method that is prescribed by the Holy Spirit through the Bible for "obtaining wisdom."

The problem with the constant hunger for media is resulting in a growing dependency upon the internet or a media-based information system. Add to that the differing views especially about spiritual and religious topics, and there is a lot of contradicting information about the Bible

being dissimulated and mixed into our modern culture. The Bible is criticized, mocked, ridiculed and attacked by "reliable" resources found on the internet. We live in a time of skepticism, and disbelief. But the greatest difficulty again is broad scope the ignorance of God's Word among people who identify themselves as Christians, who are silent or unable to defend their faith because of their ignorance.

I have read all kinds of Bible study materials for Christian education. As I compare different approaches to Bible Study materials I am impressed by the bottom line of most Christian literature to likely to be a mini lesson designed without the goal increasing long term Bible memory. When you develop one simple method of Bible teaching there is a problem when you constantly confront limitations of time, funds, and different learning styles. Churches set aside huge amounts of money for materials, that often are not used seriously. The lessons are too long

for the period of time given for the study, and there is no Bible "memorization" planned into the lesson. It usually ends up in discussion, but there is not a lot of teaching or learning occurring.

Is there a method that will work for everyone? Perhaps there is a simple method and perhaps the Bible has already told us repeatedly what it is. We have been told to read and write the Word, to hide it into our hearts. How do we do that? Evidently it is talking about memorizing the words of the Bible. It is meant to be recalled in the memory through a type of information processing. We know more about this today because of computers. We must encode the verses into our minds by reading and write and using whole picture of learning. Too often we depend on the non-literature forms of learning, meaning the audio and verbal parts. We should use listening, speaking, reading and writing the Bible in order to understand it and appropriate

the meaning.

We see the theme of reading and writing God's Word over and over in scripture.

It is not enough to hear a preacher, tape, or simply read a devotional guide. In the Old Testament they were told to write the Scriptures in their house on objects and even carry them with them. Deuteronomy 11:16-25 (NKJV) [16] "Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, [17] lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you. [18] "Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. [19] You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house,

when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. [20] And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, [21] that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth. [22] "For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— [23] then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. [24] Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. [25] No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said

to you."

I began this transcribing method years ago, but more recently when I write in my notebooks, I also write on 3 X 5 cards and keep special verses in my pocket. I never know when I may see someone that needs one of my cards with a message. Or I may even read one of them while I am talking on the phone...handy.

I do not want to give the impression that I am perfect or do not struggle with this, but I do struggle daily to get my time arranged to get my writing in. I juggle that around. Some days are wonderful and I have my time in the morning, but I have a life also and so I make time. I may write at night or at lunch time. But my resolve is to do this daily. I needed to explain that this will be a struggle for you also. However, we take the challenge and just like many

other things that we do because they are good for us, we choose to comply.

I call the method the **Scribe Method**, which uses "transcription,*" because I transcribed word for word the Bible. I like the group that call it the Scribe method because that has a historical significance. The scribes were given a special task to preserve the Word of God long before Xerox machines and printing press.

I decided to write about this technique of Transcription or "Scribing" because I feel there is a need to share it with others. I discovered how effective it was as a tool for learning when I first went to Bolivia as a missionary.

*Transcription is a method of copying word for word verses, chapters and books of the Bible as a scribe would have done. The Scribe Method is another way of explaining that same technique.

Originally, I began copying my Spanish Bible because my purpose was learning Spanish as a second language. I did not realize until this year when I met a missionary family who serve in Africa that many people were discovering the same technique for learning the Bible. It works as a tool for acquiring language each the Bible, but also can be used to learn the Bible. I have suggested this method to Hispanics for ESL (English as a Second Language) to help them learn sentence structure and vocabulary. (I used the *God News for Modern Man* Versions of the English Bible.)

I know first-hand from experience that my Spanish vocabulary increased quickly, but I also was able to grasp syntax, sentence structure and better grammar by writing the Spanish Bible. When I began to speak Spanish, I knew instantly when I had made mistakes speaking because I had read and written so many notebooks, that I was consciously

aware of differences. This is personal experience and I am proof that it works, later I became a Spanish teacher for high school and community college.

I am sure that I would not have been able to enter the University in Bolivia and graduate, taking my classes in Spanish if I had not had a good foundation in Spanish by writing in my notebooks. I was using the contemporary Spanish version called "Dios Habla Hoy." I think that it is similar to the Living Bible. I started with the Reina Valera (similar to the King James Bible,) but I found the Dios Habla Hoy more like the Spanish I was hearing daily. It worked for me! Also, I was learning at a record pace because I was hearing, speaking, reading and writing Spanish. I was totally immersed in the language. I had prayed for a method to help me learn Spanish quickly and this is what occurred to me. Simply copy the scriptures in Spanish, I go from a context that I was familiar with to,

(such as Psalms 23,) another context that I was unfamiliar with, (such as Salmos 23,) and the end result was learning. It enabled me to bridge the two languages.

I used this method to learn the Spanish language, but there was an additional benefit of receiving a deeper understanding of the whole picture of the Bible. It helped me to improve my Spanish grammar, handwriting, vocabulary and syntax. My Spanish reading comprehension increased with a remarkable speed because I was writing daily. I would read the passages out loud to double check my accuracy. There was a lot of reinforcement being used through this method, all learning must include repetition.

I have tried to find information if there has already been a book written about this method, but I couldn't find one specifically about this subject, so I decided to put this together because the information needs to be shared with others. Call it what you will, it is effective. There seems to

be various ways of describing the same technique.

In 2011, I met an IMB (International Mission Board) Southern Baptist missionary named Kelly Carruthers who spoke at a yearly associational meeting in Southern Illinois. Kelly and his wife, Ann, serve in Botswana and Zimbabwe. He carefully explained what was working in Africa as what he called the *"Copying"* method. Kelly put out a beautiful display of hand-written books of the Bible written by the hands of Africans. The notebooks were done with great care and pride. I was instantly aware that this is something that should be encouraged in the churches in the states.

Kelly brought beautiful handwritten notebooks of various books of the Bible. The written letters were done neatly and it was impressive to see their work. I suddenly realized that a technique I used in Bolivia had many other purposes and benefits. Kelly called his method "copying the Bible." He believes in the method because he has seen

results. Kelly believed that the Lord helped him discover this tool that has been very effective and inexpensive. To view the article that he wrote go to: http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/1830/CopyingtheBible2012.pdf, I also have it listed at the back of the book. No matter what you call it, it does work and it is not expensive or complicated!

I encouraged Kelly to write about his experiences because they are inspiring and basic. I immediately understood the significance of this because it is how I learned Spanish quickly and correctly. The Bible is near perfect as a work of literature. Many translators have labored to make it the most celebrated book in history. There is no better way to become educated in the Bible!

There is a "movement" of sorts happening in Illinois, in the Elkville First Baptist church, Pastor Darrell and Donna Williams told me about the Bible learning

happening there. In Elkville, it was the first time that I heard it called the *"Scribe Method."* I really thought that title was fitting, as it describes clearly what it is. There were several ladies doing this method, they reported being blessed by the experience. They impressed me by the way that they incorporated this method and confirmed to me once again of how beneficial it is.

I heard that another church calls it *"Write the Word."* There are many forms of this going on by different people in different places. I think that it is a movement by God's Spirit to awaken churches and individuals to embrace His Word again. If we were no longer granted the freedom to read the Bible, would we know it? It is shocking how average Christians are Biblically illiterate. They are spoon fed little verses on Sunday and have not learned to take responsibility for learning God's Word from God's book.

What was a Scribe? Historically many ancient cultures

had scribes. The Bible mentions the scribes in various verses. The scribes had a special place in their culture as they were the task of copying the scriptures in great detail. See Deuteronomy 17:18-20.

The ancient scrolls come from their work. I am not going into great detail about who they were, but simply want to make the point that they were important and they played a great role in the legacy of the faith. Apart from what they later represented, I want to pull away with the term "scribe" in the simplest form of the word, which implies one who copies or writes. I am interested in the practical application of writing the Bible for the benefit of increasing Bible knowledge.

I found a blog by Teri Maxwell called "Mom's Corner," from August 2008 which focuses on *Scripture Memory and Bible Copying Part 1*, (refer to this website for reference:

http://www.titus2.com/corners/8-08-m.htm.)

Teri writes scripture on a whiteboard and during meals they practice the verses. Teri is a home school mom who has written several useful books for home school moms. Teri calls scripture memory a "discipline," of which, I agree. It is hard work to memorize the Bible. The method that we chose should be simple and inexpensive. So for the home school moms who are looking for a method to teach Bible verses and **improve handwriting,** here is the method for you! Clever lady!

The motivation for study should be a desire to learn. New information is constantly introduced while writing the text. Vocabulary increases as well as the historical information that is introduced in the Bible stories. The reward is the depth of understanding greater concepts of the Bible as a whole. The advantage of the Scribe Method is simple to explain; our thoughts have to be organized as we read a passage, preferably we can read sentence by

sentence with the intention of recalling the sentence later when we write it. The sentence is read twice. As you decide to write whole chapters it becomes more automatic.

When using this method the ability to focus improves as the problem of distractions becomes more limited. By consciously being aware that you must write the sentence, you will consciously hold the thought for a longer period of time. Most people remember more of what they have written, than what they have read.

Usually I read the sentence aloud, then write the sentence word for word. I have to go back and check the sentence by reading it aloud once more and correct any errors. It is a process by which you can obtain and retain information.

The Los Angeles Times had an article dated February 17, 2009, called **"Hand-copying the Bible, one person per verse"** written by Joanna Lin that the **Bible Across**

**America Tour** was kicking off to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the *New International Version of the Bible* or what is called the NIV. Zondervan, the publishing house that prints the NIV send an invitation to churches to participate in the event. Different people wrote a verse twice to be included in a two hand-written copies that would be complied into two complete books. One book would be donated to the International Bible Society and the other placed in the Smithsonian Institution. The International Bible Society has the copyright to the NIV. The article stated that it would take approximately six months to write the entire Bible, but they did not elaborate about the specific details about how much should be written daily. Unfortunately this tour came and went and I did not hear about it at the time. However, it is unfortunate that the method of writing the Bible for personal Bible study and improved memory did not take off as a result of

the tour.

Jimmy Carter, who was the 39th President of the United States, is reported to have learned Spanish by reading a Bible that had English and Spanish written side by side. By using the visual parallel version he was able to learn words and phrases readily as he would grasp words that that were grouped together. Jimmy Carter used God's book to teach him Spanish, so much that he wrote his own speeches in Spanish according an article written by Carole Cadwalladr on September 10, 2011 from the Observer.

contemporary version of the Bible. I was unaware of this part of his life, but I am fascinated because it is just more proof that it works.

# 2 WHY IS IT BENEFICIAL?

I had mentioned in the last chapter, that the benefits of transcribing, or coping the Bible is first of all, a spiritual benefit. If knowing God's Word will keep you from sinning, It has a cognitive-behavioral effect on our lives. It provides comfort, hope, peace and strength when facing difficult situations. This should be attractive for us as Christians. It will save us a lot of pain in our lives.

The Bible gives us information about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the spiritual world. There is instruction for how to live our lives. I believe that scriptures have a healing effect on our thinking and provide correction for negativity generated by sin. I believe that the Bible is a motivational book as it provides encouragement for Christian service

and responsibility.

The best way to know who God is and what His nature is, is found in the Bible. The pages tell a story of history, man and his disobedience. There is a tragic unfolding of the consequences upon all mankind for the sinful act of one man and one woman, this is historical. The rest of the stories through history come to the birth of Jesus Christ and the act of Redemption. The Bible is filled with history, poetry, drama and prophecy.

I am not an expert on theology, I need something practical for my own life in the here and now. I live in an age filled with mental illnesses, drug addictions, war, economic and political insecurity. I am looking for answers and an applied use for the Bible. I live in a modern time of great stress. The Bible has words to calm by meditating on God and focusing on the inner world of the soul.

The benefits of knowing God's Word are powerful for

me and for those who come into contact with me. I am transformed by knowing the Bible. Wisdom is offered by knowing the Bible. I come to believe in God by understanding who HE is, the purpose for my life and how to make sense of the world.

It is interesting that the Bible adds the imperfections of people, they are recorded. This always surprises me. The accounts of "some doubted" and revealing what was in someone's "heart," are recorded. It is an honest book. It is truth. In our age, we are not sure about truth. I read about something being beneficial to my health one day, then it is contradicted the next.

I feel confused and lost. How am I able to find my footing? Where do I stand in this fast paced and changing world? I need a solid rock to stand on. I need peace in a world of rage, violence and hate. I want to know that there is a God of love who loves "the world" in its terrible

condition. I need to know the way to salvation. I want to find a Redeemer, a Savior. I want spiritual help. We have been given a great gift, God's Word.

There are people who preach for monetary gain, fame and even to deceive and control people. If we know our Bible, they will not deceive us with vain, carnal methods. A deceptive teacher will not be able to psychologically trap us if we know the Bible, we will understand that the message is not right even if they twist scriptures. Oddly enough doctrine is in the Word of God, we will get proper doctrine in the Word.

By doctrine I mean, what is the nature of God? Who is the Biblical Jesus? What the Bible says about the end of the World and the return of Jesus? How do you become saved? How should we live?

In my life, I believe that the Holy Spirit uses the Bible and helps me *recall* what I have learned and brings it back to

remembrance. Amazingly, it returns inwardly and colors my life with an awareness of God. This is especially true when I am at my wits end and feel as if I have no resources within myself.

While we have present tense benefits, I believe that there are eternal benefits to God's Word. We are given salvation through the Words that teach about Jesus. I do not think that many people in the world have experienced the kind of love that God describes towards us in scripture, He has loved us with an "everlasting love." This love is a forgiving and tolerant love. He loves us while we are imperfect. He wants us to be with Him forever and builds a home for us.

I confess that I cannot fully understand this. I am still learning and discovering new meanings, new experiences with God. I feel sorry for the sin in the world. I feel sad for the anger, violence and pain that I see all

around...everywhere. It is a constant source of grief. I cannot imagine a world without death, sickness, prisons, ...can you? Yet we are told in eternity there will be a new reality. We are told things are in this life, and afterwards in eternity.

The high water mark in the Bible is the Cross of Jesus Christ. I was uncomfortable with this image, it was confusing, it was hard to look at. Yet as I grow older and continue to consider what it was and why it had to be, I am thankful for the sacrifice. It the spiritual world, there is another reality. We could not gain entry into that reality on our own.

It is simple. It is free. I do not have to add anything to the "gospel" it is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe and receive. But beyond that entry way of salvation into my human experience, comes the task of living every day. That is far more complicated for me. I

tend to be lazy, I tend to be unloving. I tend to lose focus.

Living for Christ is far more of a growing experience and reveals the need for more scriptural knowledge to clearly understand my mission, my purpose and my call.

I am supposed to become more like Christ daily. I am to crucify my lusts, my sinful nature and allow Him to live through me. Often I think we are caught in the numbers game, to see people come to Christ...then what? Then nothing. That is why we have carnal Christians who nobody cares for because they have no spiritual impact in the world.

The Bible is my Handbook for living. It encourages me to forgive people who hurt me, use me and cause me pain. It demonstrates another system of living that is based on the philosophy and life of Jesus Christ. It is "the way, the truth and the life" described by Jesus Christ as the person Jesus Christ. My nature way is quite different and I know it.

So as far as the benefits of scribing the Bible, they are innumerable. You just have to form a resolve to do it. The motivation should be there to begin a new day in your life, feed your spiritual self the Word of God and grow up! To many Christians are spiritual infants! The early church turned their world upside down, and today with all of our media and technology, we are not where they were. Why?

# 3 HOW CAN IT BE USED?

How can the Scribe method be used? Of course it can be used in churches and hopefully so, but it can be used individually. I hope that churches will begin projects for writing scripture even if it means doing away with the quarterly Sunday School material in order to learn the Bible more effectively and perhaps to use the savings from their budget to missions or a tangible ministry for outreach.

I realize that is a radical viewpoint, it is nontraditional, but I have seen materials wasted and they can be a crutch. If everyone were writing in their own notebook, it would at least be a visual way to see a person's involvement. While some materials are well written, there is too much content

to be covered in the time allowed. Often we rush to "complete" the lesson, but we do not **memorize** any scripture.

II Timothy 3:7 talks about the problem of constant learning (or teaching,) but never being able to come to the truth of the Jesus Christ. We do not require anything of our Sunday School learners, in that they sit passively. They lack of an active participation has them underdeveloped. If the educational system in our country adopted the methods we use in church, we would not see results and we do not see results in churches.

Something should change, if it is indeed Sunday **School**, then scripture memory should make a comeback. The "canned" materials do not make for any adaptions or imagination on the part of the "teacher." Some churches even use videos to teach, we are getting more and more passive in learning. Learning should be a two-way

experience.

The Scribe method allows for more active learning. I remember in the Free Methodist Church in Greenville, Illinois they had a program for Bible Quizzing. That was a program that challenged young people to learn the Bible. It was excellent because it gave a them a task to perform and encouraged them to grow in their knowledge.

Our son was active in this group, it had provided him with a great opportunity to "hide the Word" in his heart. This is a good example of youth work. However, a lot of churches want to entertain or babysit youth adding a secularized imitation of churchy life. They are being cheated out a chance to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. It is sad that the church is conforming to the world, rather than transforming by the Word.

These are my opinions, as an observer. I am motivated by a sense of returning to a simpler way of life. The desire

for growth and holiness, the love of the lost and suffering, and the call to be a light in this dark world. We spend too much time with our idols, wasting time, wasting money, wasting our gifts and abilities in vanity....we are not God centered, it is more like me-centered. I have studied psychology, I know how it works. But psychology does not save us, only Jesus Christ can redeem and transform a life.

I am troubled that many sermons are little more that self-psychology talks, adding a scripture to make it look good. How sad that we cannot recognize this. We want to feel good on Sunday morning. We want to be "fed," if I hear that again I will scream. I prepare my own breakfast, lunch and dinner...Christians should know how to do that spiritually as well. We are so saturated in ourselves. We miss the **gospel**, underscore...**go** into all of the world....etc.

Many churches have a well-organized system of ministry to **themselves.** Is it any wonder that Christians

seem so mundane and have no impact in their communities? What is the excuse? Scriptural ignorance, it is blatant and only those who are aware of the truth will be set free of those traps. Can I hear an **Amen** out there somewhere?

All you need is a Bible, notebook and pen or pencil. It cannot get any easier, we are talking low technology. This method is to be shared. You will not be told how to use it, just use it however creative you may be! Feel free to take the idea and run with it!

# 4 THE BIG PICTURE, NOT JUST BYTES

Our modern day method of receiving information has us overwhelmed with details, facts and "bytes," but it can turn into worthless pieces of information, we cannot develop critical thinking or what may be understood as how to apply the information. Christians hear songs, see power point sermons, are handed bulletins and papers, but they may not be able to process all of that input.

When you overload a system, it will fail or crash. I have had several of my computers crash, not pretty. I found that I had spyware, corrupted files and too many useless files taking up my precious hard drive space.

Our capacity is not far behind the computer model, we do have a limit of the amount of working memory and

attention that we can apply as we function. We need to select what is important and delete the nonessential materials.

I have worked in the field of psychology and education. We are lifelong learners whether we chose to be or not. I believe that Christians we are compelled to grow in the faith and knowledge of God. It takes effort on our part to "maintain our systems" in a working order.

There is no way to avoid the subject of scripture memory. We have been raised in a **soft** generation, we like comfort, short cuts, easy, and basically we have become lazy. We want everything to come to us, spoon fed....effortless. That certainly is not reality. While we do not have a "works salvation," that is not to be taken as there is no work for the Christian to do in this world.

Our faith become shown to the world through our works that are to bring glory to God. No great Christian sat

in the corner of dim room twittling his thumbs, love requires action and service.

Neither will a person learn the concepts spelled out in the Bible without study, and carefully reading and memorizing the scriptures. It requires action, a response.

I have learned so much useless information throughout my lifetime, it is sad when I think about it. We get so busy knowing a little about everything, that we are experts in nothing. But for the Christian, we should love the Bible and know what it says.

Computers have revolutionized our culture. The model of data entry or encoding shows a visual picture for how we use memory. We must encode the Bible into our memory in order to recall, or reproduce it when needed.

There are methods for memorizing the Bible. We must read the Bible for sure, there are programs of reading that require reading two chapters a day or a certain amount

weekly, but however, you choose to do it, you should have developed some type of habit of reading the Bible.

Seminary may not be helpful for you either because you may spend more time reading **about** the Bible and theologians, that you do not actually read the Bible. You do not have to get too fancy...large volumes of books and magazines do not make you knowledgeable about the Bible. Keep it simple.

Children should be taught to read the Bible and given scripture memory at a young age. The young man Timothy is mentioned in the New Testament as a person who had learned the scriptures as a young boy, taught by his mother and grandmother. What a legacy!

In the history of this country, years ago there was the tradition of the "Family Altar" when the father would read the Bible to his children in the evening. Prayers were said and the art of worship was practiced in the home. The

Bible had a prominent place within the home, not as furniture or an object, but as a representation of worship.

This sadly, has been replaced with a widescreen television and programs that would make a saint blush. The programs flood into Christian homes bringing violence, sexuality and assaults on Christian principals...often through paid programming.

The Bible is on a shelf with dust, it has lost its significance for many, except for Sunday, whereas many people do not even carry a Bible to church anymore. They know a power point will project the verse or couple of verses that will be thrown up on the screen.

Daily Bible reading is not being encouraged because many church members are dependent on a Christian School, Sunday School, or Youth Pastor to teach their children. Where can you find mature Christians? Who takes responsibility for their own spiritual growth and ministers

to others? Do you have to have an official role or be paid to minister to others?

There is a time coming when the knowledge of the Lord will be abundant, (Habakkuk 2:14,) we actually have the access know through the Bible, and the freedom at this point, but are we using it?

I encourage you, do not be a slacker, get busy. Start growing and stop making excuses. Take responsibility for your spiritual growth, stop complaining about your church and what you do not have. Look at what you do have, read your Bible. Write and memorize the Word. Grow up and be useful.

# 5 HIDING THE WORD IN YOUR HEART

What does the Bible say about the Word of God? It is alive, or living...Hebrews 4:12 states that it is powerful and sharper than a sword to cut divide between intentions, desires and thoughts. This has to do with sin, but it is also a psychological tool.

People can and do manipulate me, and you too. We are not always able to prevent that. We deceive ourselves as well. When a person reads God's Words there is an inner working, it convicts a person of sin and reveals the darkness in their hearts.

The Word of God is also called a mirror. James 1:23-25 refers to the Word as a mirror, giving freedom, liberating a

person from sin. There is warning as well offered here, not to just hear it audibly and passively, but to take action to obey what it says.

The call to obedience to God's Word is the goal in knowing it, not just knowing it for the sake of spouting it out....the incorporation of the values must be evident.

Psalms 119:11 expresses the act of hiding the Word in your heart, this poetic language describes memorizing the Word, but there is an emotion tied to it. We love the Word because it of the loving One who gave it to us.

The words give us worth and meaning, and security. We can feel peace and experience transformation through the words in scriptures. This is therapeutical, producing healing to the soul.

In my life, I have personal significance attached to certain scriptures. They have been with me during difficult times in my life. They provided me peace, comfort and

hope. Do you have any favorites? If you just take the book of Psalms there are many verses to bring help to your life.

I am not going to type out all of the verses, just the references, here are my special verses that I will share with you: (sort of like my favorite recipes for life's troubles)

Psalms 1 Comfort and assurance for the future, how to live, especially verse 2, delight in the law or the Word.

Psalms 3:3 Depression, God will lift your head and protect.

Psalms 4:1-3, Psalms 5:1-4 God answers prayer.

Psalms 4: 8 For insomnia.

Psalms 5:11-12 and Psalms 7:1 God's protection.

Psalms 8 Praise.

Psalms 12:6 Pure words.

Psalms 18:1-3 Salvation.

Psalms 19 The beauty of nature, His creation.

Psalms 23 Guidance.

Psalms 27 Patience.

Psalms 31 Courage.

Psalms 34 Thanksgiving.

Psalms 37 Deliverance.

Psalms 42 Spiritual Thirst.

Psalms 46 Refuge.

Psalms 51 Forgiveness.

Psalms 90 Praise.

Psalms 91 Protection.

This is a brief example of how you can collect verses to use when there is a need. You can write out these or go chapter by chapter, I like writing in a notebook. I fill up a notebook and start again. I like writing chapter by chapter, but have also kept verses that I liked. I have made flash cards for singular verses that I liked, for example, Psalms 118:1 NKJV "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever.", has a powerful message.

This makes a nice memory verse for your refrigerator or car (use sticky notes!)

# 6 PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

While I enjoy reading the scriptures, a friend of mine taught me how to pray the scriptures. This is when you have memorized the scriptures and they become part of your prayer life. The Word is a vital part of spiritual practice.

Probably the most common use of this is found in the reciting of the Lord's Prayer. While this is hopefully not your only prayer, it is good to pray the Lord's prayer because is such a wonderful model.

Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV

"9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

[10] Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

[11] Give us this day our daily bread.

[12] And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

[13] And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory

forever. Amen."

John Piper has a blog about 10 reasons to pray the scripture, dated December 28, 2008, in which he describes some benefits by praying the scriptures in his Desiring God series. John Piper states that the scriptures "sanctify" or produce holiness. In his series about "desiring God," we

should desire God's holiness also. It is not possible for us to know how to do this, apart from knowing the scriptures, it is not natural for us.

I think that we enter dry periods in our Christian life and we need some help. That is when we can pray the scriptures to revitalize our spiritual life. When we have familiarity with the scriptures, we become more skilled in using it effectively.

Some people like to journal, in that, you may find long sections of scripture transcribed as they work through different issues. I made many journals in my lifetime, I only have two that remain presently, but many Christians cannot rely on others to nurture them along because they have a position that requires them to provide spiritual nurturing to others, be it their own families, or ministry.

Not everyone has the luxury of sitting an learning all the time, we must be able to internalize our faith and

reproduce that in others. Spiritual growth is imperative in order to serve others in Christian work. There comes a time to be the teacher, to be the one who is teaching. II Timothy 4:1-5 NKJV says:

"4 I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: [2] Preach the word! **Be ready** in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. [3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; [4] and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. [5] But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions**, do the work** of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

These verses show the need for maturity in Word. People who know their Bible will not be taken in by tricky

preachers, or cult leaders. We have been forewarned of a coming deception, we must test what we hear by what we know to be reliable, which is God's Word.

# 7 CONCLUSIONS

Educators such as Lewin(1951) and Kolb(1984,) summarized that learning began with an experience. The consistent practice of writing out the scriptures by hand will produce learning. There will be learning on various levels that involve language skills, sentence structure, vocabulary and syntax, not to mention the stories themselves.

The context and content of the subject matter will be included in the themes of the Bible. For example, there are many verses dealing with forgiveness, salvation and redemption. When your write these verses, you gain a

familiarity with the Bible, you can begin to have an idea where to find those verses when needed.

If you add to the writing of verses some more in depth study, such as the author, time period and other details, you can slowly increase the overall study of that portion of scripture. I do not always add those details because I am concentrating mostly on the scripture itself. Although sometimes I use a highlighter to emphasize certain words or underline names of people to research the story more (but only using the margin.)

I have skipped lines when using two languages such as Spanish and English, I have written the phrase in each language and then compared the translations, but even if you do not use different languages, you could use different versions of the Bible and compare in that way. I have used different colored ink in order to help me see the lines of each one clearer.

I have enjoyed writing the scripture, I tend to remember better when writing. I can focus more on the words when I write because when I simply read, I miss certain aspects of the details in the verses. When we are motivated to learn we are able to focus on learning through a task, such as writing. We can learn more (quantity) through the Scribe method and learn more (quality) because of paying attention to details.

I can recommend this method with complete assurance that it works because I was able to learn another language through it as well as gain a great deal of Bible knowledge. This has meaning for me because I know that it will help me in every area of my life.

I believe that learning the scripture has a cleansing effect on our thoughts and attitudes. We live in a negative world, the news reports flood the airwaves with distressing horrific events. Our ancestors never had to deal with such

an outpouring of knowledge of evil until the media provides us with a continuous broadcasting of doom and gloom. We need to counterbalance that reality with a dose of truth from God's Word. Evil will not always have prominence. God will judge and correct the wrong around us, the story has an ending that shows that God is in control.

Faith comes by hearing (or reading) God's Word, the lack of faith is evidence of a lack of knowing God's Word today in our contemporary culture. The answer to this dilemma is simple. I would like to encourage you to begin today. Make a plan to begin learning God's Word. Do not be satisfied with ignorance.

Begin your transcribing by writing a few verses, then and entire Chapter. Start in your favorite book. My favorites are Proverbs, Psalms and the Gospels. I have not transcribed the entire Bible yet, I have done most of Genesis (in

Spanish.) I would like to transcribe the book Revelation this year by hand.

When I saw the notebooks done by the Africans that the missionary Kelly Carruthers brought and put on display at the church in Southern Illinois where he was speaking, I was in awe. They had written the letters with such beauty, the penmanship was amazing. They decorated the notebooks on the cover as well. They were proud of their labor, but I was just seeing the external work, what could not be seen was the internal, spiritual work in their hearts as they guarded God's Word in their spirits.

Now I hope that you are convinced and will attempt to use the Scribe method so that you can grow and experience the living Word of God. It will be food for your soul, encouragement for your heart and a light for your path until we meet the Lord face to face. God bless you.

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# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carol Evaul was a missionary in Santa Cruz, Bolivia for about 20 years. She entered the Universidad Evangélica Boliviana and graduated with a degree in Psychology. When she returned to the states she attended the University of Illinois Springfield and graduated with a Masters in Education. Afterwards she entered McKendree University and graduated with a Masters in Professional Counseling. She sees herself as a "like-long learner" even though she has worked as a teacher in two community colleges. She states that "Education will not give you wisdom, God's Word will make you wise."

I have been to many Bible studies trying to learn more. I found that afterwards, I did not remember very much. I came across this method by various people and have concluded that handwriting the Bible works.

This book explains how, why, and what benefits occur because of this method. I am convinced that the serious student of the Bible will learn by this *simple* method.

As a teacher I believe that study is important, the challenge is to continue to grow as a life long learner and disciple. Try it for yourself, it only takes a Bible, a notebook, and a pen. 2 Timothy 2:15 says to study the Word, take the challenge and be transformed by the experience.

Visit her blog:
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